



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

The application of:

David Watling et al.)
 Serial No: 10/088,595) Art Unit
 Filed: June 11, 2002) 1744
 Confirmation No.: 6862)
 For: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR VAPOUR)
 PHASE STERILISATION)
 Examiner: David A. Redding)

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.10

I hereby certify that following documents are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Box: Mail Stop Issue Fee, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 28th day of December 2005.

- Transmittal of Issue Fee (2 pages) (in duplicate)
- PTO Form PTOL-85 transmitting payment of Issue Fee
- Comments on Statement of reasons for Allowance (2 pages)
- Form PTO-2038 submitting Credit Card Payment in the amount of \$1,445
- Postcard

Respectfully submitted,

DANA L. TANGREN
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Express Mailing Label No. EV 632 711 944 US

PATENT APPLICATION
Docket No: 15568.3

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

David Watling et al.

Serial No: 10/088,595

) Art Unit
) 1744

Filed: June 11, 2002

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For: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR VAPOUR
PHASE STERILISATION

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Examiner: David A. Redding

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TRANSMITTAL OF ISSUE FEE PAYMENT

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Transmittal dated October 4, 2005, please find enclosed herewith the following items for filing in the United States Patent and Trademark Office in connection with the above identified patent application:

- Fee(s) Transmittal (PTOL-85) submitted pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.311.
- A Certificate of Express Mailing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 is enclosed.
- Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance is enclosed.
- Pursuant to the request for submission of formal drawings, enclosed are the following:

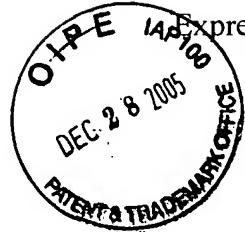
- A set of _____ () sheets of formal drawings to replace the corresponding drawings originally filed with the subject application.
- A duplicate set of the _____ () sheets of formal drawings with the changes therein highlighted in red.
- Form PTO-2038 submitting Credit Card Payment in the amount of \$1,445.00 is enclosed to cover:
 - The \$1,400.00 government issue fee pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.18.
 - The \$0.00 government publication fee pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.18.(d).
 - The \$45.00 fee for fifteen (15) copies of the patent when issued.
- The Commission is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-3178.

Please address all future correspondence in connection with the above-identified patent application to the attention of the undersigned.

Dated this 28th day of December 2005.

Respectfully submitted,


DANA L. TANGREN
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Address Mailing Label No. EV 632 711 944



PATENT APPLICATION
Docket No: 15568.3

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

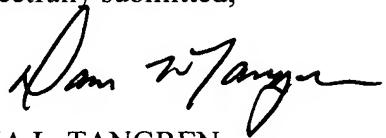
Applicant respectfully disagrees in part with the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance as set forth in the communication mailed on October 4, 2005. The Applicant concurs with the Examiner's conclusion that the prior art does not suggest or render obvious the claimed invention.

However, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention as set forth in each of the independent claims and the dependent claims must be read as a whole, and not as a single feature or subcombination of features which represent less than the entirety of the claimed invention as a whole. While a particular feature or subcombination of features referred to by the Examiner in the Statement of Reasons for Allowance may represent a basis for distinguishing the claimed invention over the prior art, Applicant submits that this may not necessarily be the *sole* ground for distinguishing the claimed invention over the prior art of record. Accordingly, the Examiner’s statement should, in Applicants’ view, not be read as constituting or meaning that the invention can or should be reduced to a single “feature” of the invention or to a subcombination of features that is less than the entire invention claimed as a whole, nor that the single feature referenced by the

Examiner or subcombination of features referenced by the Examiner in the Statement of Reasons for Allowance is the only or sole grounds for distinguishing the invention over the prior art of record.

Dated this 28th day of December 2005.

Respectfully submitted,



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